



A Mini-van for Sister Philotea from the Friends of the Handicapped

It was with great pleasure that Art Stark, President, and Steve Wild, Vice-President of the Friends of the Handicapped handed over the keys to a minivan to Sister Philotea of the Ambiente Nobo Center for the Mentally Disabled on Friday afternoon. The concerted efforts of the board of this group of island visitors brought about the acquisition of this desperately needed vehicle for the Sister, who has devoted her life to taking care Aruba's mentally disabled.

The Friends of the Handicapped are a group of devoted island visitors that come to Aruba annually for at least one month or more. The majority own timeshares at the Aruba Beach Club, and they are joined in their fund raising efforts by a number of native Arubians. They pass the plate each week at Mass, and hold a number of events to raise funds that are donated to local foundations that benefit the island physically and mentally handicapped. The organization was founded twenty years ago by Keith and Wilma Jones, who have unfortunately passed on, but their good work is continued by a number of regular visitors that love the island and its people, and have come to feel themselves part of the Aruban community.

Joining Art and Steve for the presentation of the van to Sister Philotea were Sal and Mary Lacruba, Phil Soloman, Treasurer of the Friends of the Handicapped, and Pauline Daley, all who dedicated a large part of their annual visit to various fundraising events. The Superbowl Sunday Party and Lottery, and for the last five years, the very popular Sweethearts' Dinner Dance on Valentine's Day, held in the Radisson Aruba Ballroom have accumulated over one million dollars over the twenty years that have all gone to various projects of Aruba's many foundations.

Sister Philotea was thrilled to drive off in what is for her, a brand new Toyota van, which Steve Wild had a mechanic check out to make sure was in excellent running condition, to continue her good work with those that need it. Sister Philotea and all The News wish to express a heartfelt thank you to Aruba's friends who give of their time so selflessly in their love for the island and its people.